

PATENT

Serial No. 10/531,604

Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on March 23, 2006

IN THE DRAWING

Please replace FIG 4 with the enclosed replacement FIG 4.

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REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and further examination in view of the following remarks and arguments are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, FIG 4 has been amended for conformance with the specification, such as page 6, lines 9 and 23 of the specification. A replacement sheet including FIG 4 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-13 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as changing beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-13 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and

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Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicant furthermore reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 8-13 are objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. In response, claims 4 and 8-13 have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection to claims 4 and 8-13 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0081080 (Balle-Petersen). Further, claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Balle-Petersen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0052788 (Kwong-Tai Chung). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 are patentable over Balle-Petersen and Kwong-Tai Chung for at least the following reasons.

Balle-Petersen is directed to a connector assembly that includes contact sensors 27 that detect proper mating between a cable and laser source and, if so, then allow a laser light beam to

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be transmitted through the connector assembly. (See last 4 lines of paragraph [0048])

It is respectfully submitted that Balle-Petersen, including detection of proper connector mating, does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

a control device to operate the medical examination;

wherein the control device transmits signals comprising control signals accompanied by an identification code; and

wherein the examination device is provided with means to verify the identification code and is arranged to accept the corresponding control signals when the identification code is correct and to reject the corresponding control signals when the identification code is not correct; and

communication means for automatically communicating the identification code between the control device and the examination device.

Proper mating of the Balle-Petersen connectors and the sensors do not amount to a teaching or suggesting of communicating an identification code, let alone automatically communicating the identification code between the control device and the examination device.

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Further, it is respectfully submitted that the Balle-Petersen mated connectors do not amount to a control device. Thus, even assuming arguendo that the mated Balle-Petersen connectors do amount to communicating an identification code, such communication of the identification code is not between a control device and the examination device, as required by independent claim 1. The mating connectors and sensors 27 do not control the Balle-Petersen laser, i.e., the Balle-Petersen mating connectors and sensors 27 do not amount to a "control device to operate the medical examination," as recited in independent claim 1. Kwong-Tai Chung is cited in rejecting dependent claims to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Balle-Petersen.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1. Applicant further requests examination of new claims 14-16, as well as amended claims 4 and 8-13 that had not been treated on the merit due to improper multiple dependencies.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or

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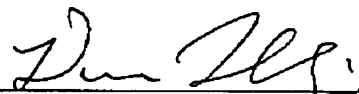
averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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June 23, 2006

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 4)
New Abstract

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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the current Abstract in its entirety and
substitute therefor the enclosed New Abstract.